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**(54) ANTIMICROBIAL
AGENT**

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:

To obtain an antimicrobial agent useful for inhibiting propagation of injurious yeast in the field of food, medicaments, cosmetics, etc., by including a new substance having activity against yeast which is isolated from yucca extract as an effective ingredient.

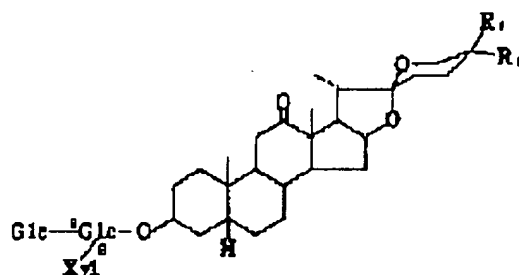
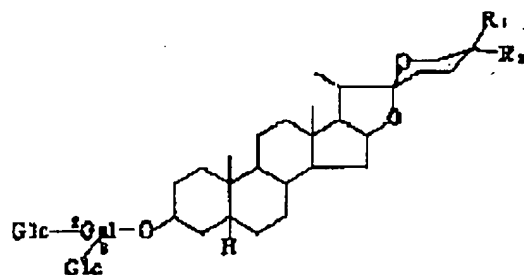
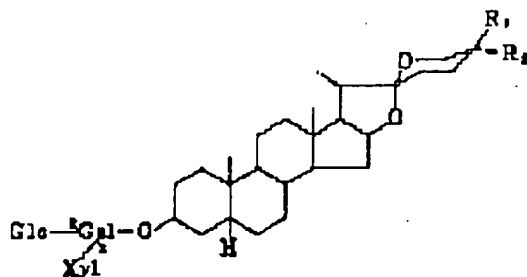
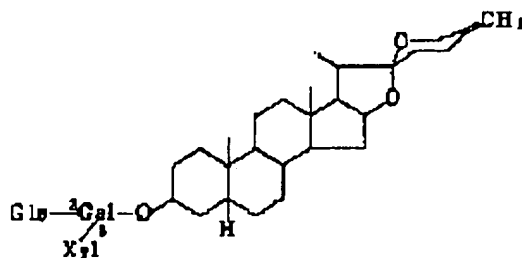
SOLUTION: This antimicrobial agent comprises at least one kind selected from saponins expressed by any of formulas I to IV, wherein one of R1 and

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R₂ is H and the other is methyl;
Glc is β-D-glucose residue; Gal
is β-D-galactose residue; and
Xyl is β-D-xylose residue as at
least one effective ingredient.

The saponin preferably is
obtained from Yucca
Schidigera. For example, parts
of Yucca Schidigera both under
and above ground may be
employed as raw material for
extraction, and it is preferable
that they are crushed down to an
adequate size and are immersed
so as to be extracted in a
hydrophilic organic solvent such
as water or methanol or a
mixture of them which are
maintained at a temperature
ranging from room temperature
to the boiling point.

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